

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, December 28, 1895, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Mother. Beinn Bhreagh, Cape Breton, N. S., December 28th, 1895. Mrs. A. Melville Bell, 1525 — 35th Street, Washington, D. C. My darling Mama:

I know this is a sad time for you and I haven't the heart to write "Merry" Christmas and a "Happy" New Year. I wish indeed I could make it a happy New Year for you — for I do love you just as much as when I was a little boy in your lap — and my heart is with you now — though I am a grey-headed man.

But I cannot be the comfort to you that a daughter would have been. Mabel writes to her mother constantly when away and Elsie makes her mother happy with letters. But somehow it is different with a man. He can feel — he can think — but alas too often he remains silent — to those to whom he should pour out his heart — and absence makes him seem cold and heartless to those he loves.

I am not really cold and heartless — inside — though Time makes me draw more and more within myself and I find it increasingly more difficult to pen my thoughts — and give expression to what I feel. I do grieve deeply with you over Uncle Charles' death — but lack words to tell you all that is in my heart. I love you very much — and Papa too — and hope to be with you both before many days have passed. Good-bye — and may this next year be a happier one to you than the one now drawing to a close.

With love to Mary and Louisa and ever so much to you both.

Your affectionate son, Alec.